

Acacia Walkabout KWG

Many of the acacias (commonly known as wattles) occurring in the Sydney region can be found here in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. During July, August and September the majority of them come into flower. Take a walk through the garden and see if you can find them. While all acacias when juvenile have a pinnate leaf structure the majority of the species quickly develop ‘phyllodes’, leaf-like swollen stems, the result of thousands of years of evolution. Thus there are two distinctly different types of acacias as seen in the pictures below. The pictures will help you identify them.

Fuller descriptions of these plants can be found on Australian Plants Society – North Shore Group Blandfordia website: <https://austplants.com.au/North-Shore/> in “Notes” on the Walks & Talks page. Excellent pictures can be found on the Hornsby Library website: www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library under: eLibrary, Learning and Research, Hornsby Herbarium. Detailed botanical descriptions are given on the PlantNET website: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/>

Five acacias with bipinnate leaves



Acacia parramattensis
 Flowerheads: globular in racemes
 Foliage: pinnae closely spaced
 (flowers in summer)



Acacia decurrens
 Flowerheads: globular in racemes
 Foliage: pinnae widely spaced



Acacia terminalis
 Flowerheads: globular in racemes
 Foliage: pinnules mostly oblong



Acacia elata
 Foliage: large leaves, pointed pinnules
 (tree to 20 metre – summer flowering)



Acacia baileyana
 Flowerheads: globular in racemes
 Foliage: silvery, 2-6 pairs

Twelve acacias with phyllodes



Acacia floribunda *Acacia longifolia*
 Flowerheads: both cylindrical – *floribunda* paler yellow
 Foliage: *floribunda* has narrower phyllodes



Acacia prominens
 Flowerheads: globular in racemes
 Foliage: prominent gland on edge

Acacia longifolia is commonly known as ‘Sydney Golden Wattle’



Acacia binervia

Flowerheads: yellow, cylindrical
Foliage: silver grey, several veins



Acacia fimbriata

Flowerheads: globular in long racemes
Foliage: fringed phyllodes



Acacia linifolia

Flowerheads: cream, globular in racemes
Foliage: soft, slender phyllodes



Acacia longissima

Flowerheads: cylindrical, 1-2 in axil
Foliage: very long narrow phyllodes



Acacia melanoxyton

Flowerheads: pale yellow, globular
Foliage: elliptic phyllodes
(twisted pods)



Acacia myrtifolia

Flowerheads: very pale yellow, globular
Foliage: elliptic phyllodes
(red stems)



Acacia suaveolens

Flowerheads: globular in racemes
Foliage: stiff, stem flattened
(phyllodes spirally arranged)



Acacia ulicifolia

Flowerheads: solitary, cream, globular
Foliage: PRICKLY
(pinnules taper gradually)



Acacia echinula

Flowerheads: solitary, yellow, globular
Foliage: PRICKLY
(pinnules suddenly pointed)

Where in the Garden?

Acacia longifolia and *floribunda* are widespread on most of the tracks.

Acacia myrtifolia, *prominens*, *binervia* and *elata* on the Solander Track between Caley's Pavilion and the Entry Road.

Acacia ulicifolia, *echinula*, *suaveolens* and *paradoxa* (not pictured) on the Senses Track.

Acacia suaveolens and *ulicifolia* on the Bentham Track.

Acacia fimbriata and *linifolia* in the Knoll Garden.

Acacia melanoxyton, *baileyana* and *decurrens* in Lambert's Clearing.

Acacia terminalis on the Brown Trail.

Acacia longissima in the lower Car Park.

Acacia myrtifolia on Solander Trail between the Fern House and Caley's Pavilion.

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